

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 09826 101818Z

53

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 /010 W
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P 101623Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2044

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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USIA FOR IPS/MA, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: INTERVISITOR J.P. CLARK

REF: LAGOS 9781 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY FEELS NEED FURTHER EXPLAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CLARK AS MENTIONED REFTEL. AS ONE OF NIGERIA'S TOP WRITERS, SCHOLARS, TEACHERS, CLARK IN POSITION TO INFLUENCE ATTITUDES OF HI STUDE *S, STAFF AND COLLEAGUES; IT IN OUR INTEREST TO MAKE HIS INFLUENCE A FAVORABLE ONE. HIS PREVIOUS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONGRESS AND HIS HAVING COME TO US FOR ASSISTANCE REPRESENTS A FURTHER MELLOWING OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. SINCE HIS BOOK "AMERICA, THEIR AMERICA." WHILE UNILAG REORGANIZATION PREVENTED HIS ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, THIS TOUR STILL AFFORDS OPPORTUNITY CLARK BE EXPOSED TO AND DISCUSS WITH HIS PEERS MANY AND CHANGING FACETS OF AMERICA. ALSO THIS TOUR IMPORTANT AS FOLLOWUP TO UPDIKE VISIT, AND GIVES HIM OPPORTUNITY BE SPOTLIGHTED IN U.S. LITERARY CIRCLES AS WAS UPDIKE IN NIGERIA. THESE EXPERIENCES HOPEFULLY WILL LEAD THIS WRITER OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO JUDGE US MORE OBJECTIVELY AND LESS EMOTIONALLY THAN IN PAST.

2. HIS REQUEST TO SEE NIKKI GIOVANNI MAY BE SIGNIFICANT, DUE FACT HE SNUBBED HER IN LAGOS. HIS REASON FOR ASKING
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TO SEE HER IN NEW YORK: "I DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO HER."

3. FOR USIA: AS CLARK IS OUT OF TOWN DIFFICULT TO
ASSESS HIS WILLINGNESS TO DO INTERVIEWS. HOWEVER WOULD
RECOMMEND AT LEAST TOPIC.
REINHARDT

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